5-25-11

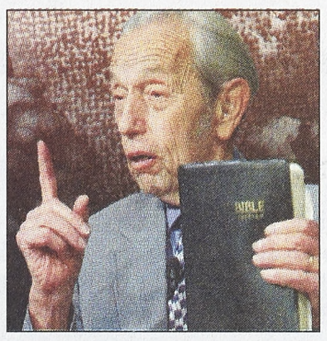
FOLLOW US ON:

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

los angeles valley college's

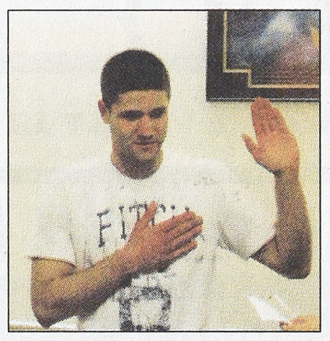
VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper



Harold Camping's "Chicken Little" prediction falls short.

SEE OPINION PAGE 3



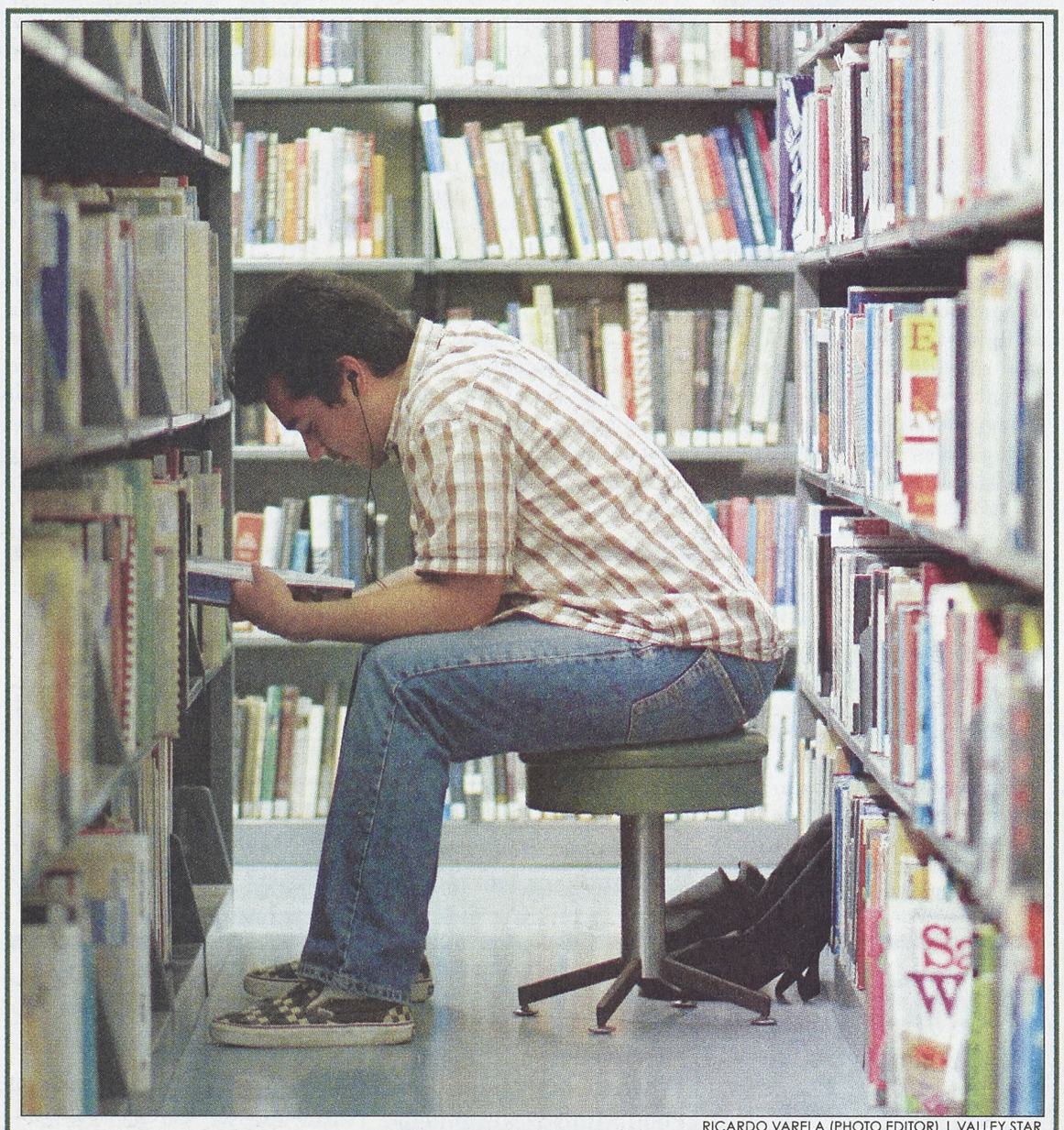
Get to know new ASU president Norvan Berkezyan.

SEE VALLEY LIFE PAGE 4

Public address announcer Gary Teague is endlessly optimistic.

SEE SPORTS PAGE 6

lavalleystar.com | May 25, 2011 | Volume 74 Issue 10



RICARDO VARELA (PHOTO EDITOR) | VALLEY STAR

HALCYON HUSTLE - Accounting major James Hernandez enjoys some quiet study time in the last days before finals.

ASU BEGINS ANEW

Valley's Associated Student Union hopes to work on what the current board has done, while working on plans of its own.

COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER

With the new Associated Student Union board in place, despite the lack of zeal of the elections in April, the ASU plans on enhancing school spirit, tackling the budget cuts and having better communication with students, all while serving the student body of Valley College.

The next year's ASU sees the overall lack of enthusiasm on campus, as evidenced by the low turnout at events such as club days, as a key issue to try and tackle.

"There isn't too much school spirit at here at Valley," said newly elected ASU President Norvan Berkezyan. "We want to change that. We want to get people involved on campus because that's part of the college experience. It's not just about coming and transferring and going to a four-year. It's about getting involved and growing as a person."

Recently elected Vice President Eduard Grigoryan sees campus clubs as a way to get students involved on campus and increase school spirit.

"We're going to be working close with the clubs because we believe that the clubs are the bridge of the student body to the ASU, and to being more organized and having school spirit," said Grigoryan. "By working with the clubs, we need to organize events and we need to let the students know that those events are going on. As of now, I can name the people who go to the events [on campus] there are like five or 10 of them."

Berkezyan plans to continue the work of the outgoing ASU had done against budget cuts and feels his advocacy experience will be helpful. He participated in the March in March and has met with federal legislators to speak on behalf of community colleges. He feels this experience will be a strength serving as president for the upcoming school year.

Besides increasing participation and working on budget cuts, Berkezyan wants to connect with students.

"One of the main things which we want to work on which we see room for improvement

|See **ASU**, Page 2|

GOT BOOKS? GET BUCKS

Valley's textbook buyback program begins Thursday.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
NEWS EDITOR

With finals week fast approaching, students eagerly await closing bulky textbooks for the last time. Rather than let them collect dust, many Monarchs turn yesterday's reading assignment into tomorrow's sushi dinner.

Valley College's annual end-of-semester book buyback program begins Thursday and continues through June 3. The buyback window is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays.

"The more students who sell back books, the more used copies become available, which lowers prices for everyone," said Mary John, assistant bookstore manager.

According to John, the bookstore purchases 500-1,000 books from students each semester. Books should be free of soiling, and the binding should be in good condition. Highlighting is acceptable. Books purchased on and off campus are eligible; no receipt needed.

John says that when selling books on campus, timing is everything. Finals week is the best time to sell books, as that's when the bookstore prepares to place orders based on what books instructors will use the following semester. Students selling in-demand books will typically receive 50 percent of the original purchase price.

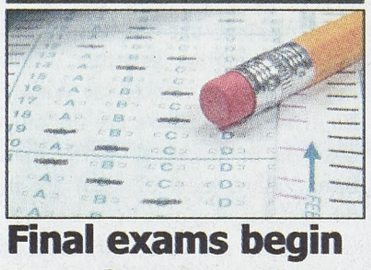
"The problem is that some teachers keep switching the book they use every year for classes like math, economics and English, so then I can't sell a lot of my books," said a Valley psychology student who preferred to remain anonymous. "I have a stack of six books I can't sell back. If I sell them online, I'll get maybe 20 percent of what I paid for them."

In addition to Valley's book buyback, many online options exist, which can be beneficial for students looking to unload older copies of books not currently used on campus. Retail super-giant Amazon.com offers store credit in exchange for textbooks, while a quick Google search reveals a laundry list of online companies advertising cash. In comparing offers for a common media arts textbook, amounts ranged from $1.50 to $12.39.

When selling books online, experts say beware of potential scams. The Daily Titan recently reported student

|See **BOOKS**, Page 2|

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:



Final exams begin Tuesday, May 31. See full schedule on page two.

ONLINE SLIDESHOW:

Red Bull Soapbox Race
More than 115,000 people turned out to watch 34 teams race homemade soapbox cars down Grand Ave. in Downtown.

These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

UC REGENTS ARGUE TUITION PROPOSAL

Proposal would allow each UC campus to charge varying annual tuition.

RACHEL FERREIRA
STAFF WRITER

After every round of cuts in state funding, the University of California system has responded with uniform tuition hikes but as more of the budget is diminished, some campuses are revisiting the idea of differential tuition rates.

With a potential jump from an 8 percent tuition increase to a 32 percent mid-year increase in the event that Gov. Jerry Brown's tax extension plan is not approved, the UC system is struggling. One controversial suggestion being discussed would allow the each of the 10 campuses to charge different undergraduate tuition. This has sparked controversy with words like "elitist" and "privatization" being thrown around among lower-income students.

"I'm not in favor of it," said Valley College Vice President of Academic Affairs Sandy Mayo. "I think it limits community college students' choices … who might not have the finances to attend a 4-year right away and depend on scholarships and grant aid."

UCLA and UC Berkeley have been heavily supportive of differential tuition. Whether these schools should be allowed to charge more than the less popular UC Merced or UC Riverside has brought on debate. Rather than give the University of California free reign of tuition rates, UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau has suggested setting a system-wide tuition midpoint and from there, allowing individual campuses to charge 25 percent more or less.

With the state only funding 13 percent of UCLA's revenue, the argument is why should California be allowed to micromanage how the campus spends its money?

|See **UC SYSTEM**, Page 2

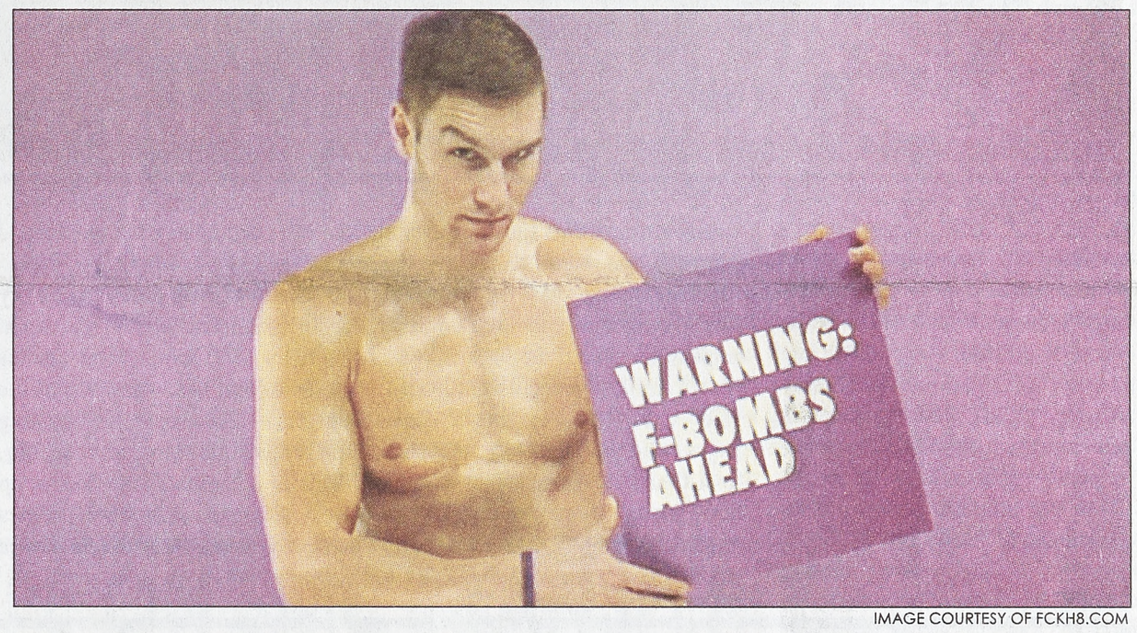


IMAGE COURTESY OF FCKH8.COM

BAD WORD FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Controversial anti-hate campaign aims to bully the bullies.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
NEWS EDITOR

Mouthing off and swearing used to earn kids a one-course meal of Ivory soap. Today they're on the Internet, dropping more f-bombs than a Pacino flick, as part of a controversial anti-hate campaign that's raising funds— and eyebrows—in support of gay rights.

The FCKH8 campaign, a brainchild of 36-year-old non-profit consultant Luke Montgomery, first hit the Internet in October 2010 with a 2 minute, 19 second video against Proposition 8. An anti-bullying message followed soon after. Recently, the group took aim against Tennessee's "Don't Say Gay" bill, which, if ultimately passed, would ban the discussion of homosexuality in classrooms.

"We're always having to censor ourselves and ask politely for people to like us and care about us," Montgomery said in a recent interview with OMG! Magazine. "This is how I feel and it's how millions of others feel. It's honest. We're f-bombing hate and we're having fun doing it."

The campaign has received mixed reviews. In each video, participants speak directly to the camera. In "FCK Bullies: STR8 Talk on Homo H8 and the Suicide R8," viewers are confronted, amid 29 f-bombs, with statistics like one in three gay kids have attempted suicide, nine in 10 are bullied and beaten, and that children rejected by their parents because of their sexuality are eight times more likely to kill themselves.

Between the statistics are strong statements of, "You f***ing take away their rights to marry, serve and adopt and you're surprised when they f***ing try to kill themselves?" Later, a pig-tailed second grader asks, "If I grow up to be a lesbo, do you want me to get f***in' gay bashed?" A milder version delivers the same message with the expletive bleeped out.

"I love it. They're imitating bullies," said David Zelitzky of Los Angeles. "It's not Martin Luther King, but it gets the message across in a very modern way and I think it might empower some young, gay kids. I wish there was a fraction of that acceptance when I was growing up."

Some critics are turned off by children swearing alongside adults. Others worry that f-bomb-dropping, doe-eyed tykes only strengthen the perceived stereotype of the LGBT community being rife with drinking, smoking and partying.

"Kids saying 'f**k' isn't appropriate," said Valley College art major Michelle Imery. "I think the campaign targets itself to anti-gay groups and can easily be put down as inappropriate … and a lot of people will agree. They're not approaching it from the right angle."

Tiffany Lanoix, Valley sociology professor and advisor to the on-campus Gay Straight Alliance,

|See **HATE**, Page 2|

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

THE VALLEY STAR is published by students of the journalism and photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program.

Under appropriate state and federal court decisions these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Materials published herein, including any opinions expressed and advertisements should not be interpreted as the position of the Los Angeles Community College District, the college, or any office or employee thereof.

Editorials are the opinion of the editorial board only and do not necessarily represent those of the entire staff. **Columns** are the opinion of the writer. **Letters** are the opinions of the reader.

Editorial and Advertising Offices are located at 5800 Fulton Avenue Valley Glen, CA 91401 (818) 947-2576.

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Lucas Thompson

MANAGING EDITOR
J.P. Spence

COPY EDITOR
Jamie Norried

NEWS EDITOR
Stephanie Colman

VALLEY LIFE EDITOR
David Motte

ONLINE MANAGER
Ivan Zuniga

PHOTO EDITOR
Ricardo Varela

STAFF WRITERS
Courtney Bassler
Rachel Ferreira
Nicole Hutchinson
Mindee Jorgensen
Joshua Lawrence
Carolina Leon
Rubi Martinez
Nathan McMahon

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
Varughan Chapanian, Briana Farina, Eva Gala, Natalie Lozano, Jennifer Morgan, Edgar Robles, Todd Rosenblatt, Samson Uba

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Chip Rudolph

ADVISERS
Bill Dauber, Rod Lyons

ASU

Continued from page 1

in is increasing communication between the student body and the student government because the student government is here to represent the student body," said Berkezyan.

Raising awareness of what ASU does, along with its events, is on the minds of many new board members, including incoming Commissioner of Fine Arts Ashley Miller.

"Students have expressed to me a disappointment in not knowing more about the actions and decisions made by the ASU student representatives," said Miller.

Along with showcasing the artistic side of Valley, Miller wants to let students know about the choices that the ASU makes by using more tools like the Internet, and working with students who are already interested in ASU.

"I challenge them to stay united as a board even when there are differences of opinion, and to not let disagreement get in the way of servicing the students," said Kourtney Pogue, current commissioner of student and social affairs.

The new ASU board begins its transition into office on July 1.

FCKH8

Continued from page 1

says the campaign is more of a rallying cry than an attempt to win-over those against the LGBT lifestyle.

"Its obvious to me that their target audience is people who are already supportive of their position," Lanoix said. "It seems like their primary goal is to raise money to donate to organizations working on issues like gay marriage, bullying, etc. They are tackling really serious issues like suicide and civil rights, so taking the comedic approach can provide some relief. I take these issues seriously and it was nice to be able to laugh at how ridiculous homophobia is."

To date, the campaign has raised more than $200,000 to support equal rights and anti-bullying organizations through the sale of T-shirts, buttons, wristbands, stickers and a calendar featuring scantily-clad straight men who "take it off, so the homos can get their rights on."

CONTROVERSIAL "DON'T SAY GAY" BILL GAINS GROUND IN TENN. SENATE

A republican-sponsored bill passed 19-11 by the Tennessee Senate Friday would prevent educators in grades kindergarten through eight from discussing homosexuality in the classroom.

The bill's longtime sponsor, Tenn. State Sen. Stacey Campfield, told CNN that discussions on sexuality should decided by families, not in school.

Opponents say the bill is unfair to the LGBT community and that the proposed "hush hush" mentality can lead to an increase in bullying.

"I do think there is a relationship between this type of policy and bullying," said Valley College sociology professor Tiffany Lanoix. "Gays and lesbians are targeted because their sexual orientation is seen as wrong, strange or weird. Not talking about homosexuality in schools only further justifies this type of thinking."

In contrast, the California Senate recently passed the FAIR Education Act, which if ultimately signed into law, would amend the education code to include social sciences instruction on the contributions of the LGBT community, and would prohibit discriminatory instruction or materials from being adopted by the State Board of Education.

"Most textbooks don't include any historical information about the LGBT movement, which has great significance to both California and U.S. history," said democratic Sen. Mark Leno who authored the bill. "Our collective silence on this issue perpetuates negative stereotypes of LGBT people and leads to increased bullying of young people. We can't simultaneously tell youth that it's OK to be yourself and live an honest, open life when we aren't even teaching students about historical LGBT figures or the LGBT equal rights movement."

BOOKS

Continued from page 1

complaints about BananaTextbooks.com, which advertises heavily on the Cal State Fullerton campus. According to the complaint, a student sent her books, was never paid, and the company consistently failed to answer phone calls or return emails. The company received a D+ rating by the Better Business Bureau, which has noted 67 customer complaints.

ONLINE COMPARISON

Valley Star compared online buyback rates as of May 23 for two media arts textbooks, "Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting" by Syd Field, and "On Camera: How to Report, Anchor & Interview" by Nancy Reardon.

	Screenplay	On Camera	BBB Rating
Amazon.com	$4.81	$5.65	A+
Bookbyte.com	$1.50	$7.00	A+
FirstClassBooks.com	$4.09	$12.39	A+
MoneyforBooks.com	$1.50	$1.50	A+

VALLEY STAR RECOGNIZED FOR GENERAL EXCELLENCE BY JACC.
Spring 2011 staff awarded for achievements in column writing, news writing, critical review, sports photography, feature photography and design.
Join the winning Valley Star staff. Visit us at:
WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM/JOIN

UC SYSTEM

Continued from page 1

Critics argue that by allowing the higher-demand schools to have a flexible tuition range, they will automatically charge students more, thereby fundamentally devaluing the education provided by the less expensive schools.

"The implication is that it's worth more," Mayo said.

For community college students who often go the transfer route to cut back on costs, the tuition proposal has the potential to make certain schools financially impossible even if they get in.

"I think it's an elitist attitude," said Valley history major Luis Rojas who was recently accepted to UCLA. "As of right now I have enough money to pay for the annual $11,000 for my two years, but if it went up I wouldn't have the finances to pay for the second year."

Many experts doubt the reality of differential tuition. In a recent interview, UC Irvine film studies professor and past chairman of the University Committee on Planning and Budget told NewUniversity.org, "This is a topic that has come up every year, especially when budgets are cut, but was never taken as a first choice."

Final Examination Schedule

Tuesday, May 31 to Monday, June 6

- Except for classes of less-than-semester length, the LAST DAY OF REGULAR INSTRUCTION IS SUNDAY, MAY 29.
- Classes meeting less-than-semester length will have the final exams at the last meeting of the class.
- FINAL EXAMINATIONS MUST BE HELD ON THE DAY AND TIME SCHEDULED AND IN REGULARLY ASSIGNED CLASSROOMS.
- FRIDAY CLASSES will have their final during the regular class meeting on June 3.
- SATURDAY CLASSES will have their final during the regular class meeting on June 4.

To use the schedule below:
- Locate the day and hour of your class on the grid.
- Days of the week are abbreviated **M T W Th F** for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

DAY CLASSES

Day and Date Of Final Exam	TUESDAY May 31			WEDNESDAY June 1		
Time of Exam	6:30 - 8:30am	9:30 - 11:30am	12:30 - 2:30pm	8:00 - 10:00am	10:30 - 12:30am	1:00 - 3:00pm
Normal Class Schedule	6:30 – 7:55 TTh	9:40 – 11:05 TTh 9:40 – 10:55 TThF	1:00 – 2:25 TTh 1:00 – 2:15 TThF	8:15 – 9:25 MTWTh 8:00 – 9:25 MW 8:00 – 9:15 MWF	11:20 – 12:30 MTWTh 11:20 – 12:45 MW 11:20 – 12:35 MWF	2:20 – 3:30 MTWTh 2:40 – 4:05 MW

Day and Date Of Final Exam	THURSDAY June 2			MONDAY June 6		
Time of Exam	8:00 - 10:00am	10:30 - 12:30am	1:00 - 3:00pm	6:30 - 8:30am	9:30 - 11:30am	12:30 - 2:30pm
Normal Class Schedule	8:00 – 9:25 TTh 8:00 – 9:15 TThF	11:20 – 12:45 TTh 11:20 – 12:35 TThF	1:45 – 3:10 TTh 1:45 – 3:00 TThF	6:30 – 7:55 MW 6:45 – 7:55 MTWTh	9:40 – 10:50 MTWTh 9:40 – 11:05 MW 9:40 – 10:55 MWF	1:00 – 2:10 MTWTh 1:00 – 2:25 MW 1:00 – 2:15 MWTh

EVENING CLASSES

CLASSES MEETING AT 3 PM OR BEFORE 5 PM			CLASSES MEETING AT 5 PM OR BEFORE 6 PM			CLASSES MEETING AT OR AFTER 6 PM		
Class Meets	Exam Date	Time	Class Meets	Exam Date	Time	Class Meets	Exam Date	Time
M	M June 6	4 – 6pm	M	M June 6	4 – 6pm	M	M June 6	7 – 9pm
T	T May 31	4 – 6pm	T	T May 31	4 – 6pm	T	T May 31	7 – 9pm
W	W June 1	4 – 6pm	W	W June 1	4 – 6pm	W	W June 1	7 – 9pm
Th	Th June 2	4 – 6pm	Th	Th June 2	4 – 6pm	Th	Th June 2	7 – 9pm
MW	M June 6	4 – 6pm	MW	W June 1	4 – 6pm	MW	M June 6	7 – 9pm
TTh	T May 31	4 – 6pm	TTh	Th June 2	4 – 6pm	TTh	T May 31	7 – 9pm

In the event of a conflict, speak with your instructor to schedule an alternate time to take the final.

WHEN PLANS GROW ON TREES

Specialized committee unveils detailed plan to protect Valley's urban forest.

NICOLE HUTCHINSON
STAFF WRITER

After months of planning and extensive research, the Tree Master Plan draft was unveiled yesterday during two town hall meetings where Valley College students, staff, and Valley Glen residents shared their thoughts and asked questions.

"Today was an opportunity to receive input for the plan from those outside the committee," said Valley President Sue Carleo.

The Tree Master Plan is a list of recommendations and principles created through the combined efforts of the TreeBUG (Building User Group) committee put together through the encouragement of Carleo.

"I'm very committed to this," said Carleo. "I felt we needed to do justice to the total Valley College environment, not just the buildings, but the grounds as well. The college has made a commitment to the urban forest on an educational standpoint and we are putting a lot of resources to that."

The resources Carleo refers to is the team that was put together for the group of faculty and staff.

"We have three experts helping us: an arborist, a landscape architect, and a landscape historian leading the development of the Tree Master Plan," said Valley President Sue Carleo.

Professional arborist Michael Mahoney completed a full assessment of the 1,834 trees on campus by categorizing the 83 species, the health of the trees, and the necessary maintenance requirements. Through his evaluation and the information from landscape architect Michael Hee and landscape historian Cathy Garrett, the committee implemented this combined data to create principles and guidelines that would protect the trees from future construction, as well as conserve their contribution on an educational level by keeping an eclectic assortment of species.

"It was determined that the trees here are a jewel for the campus and the valley… we went ahead and made a tree master plan, which many colleges don't do," said Hee.

Three students in attendance and a handful of staff members attended the afternoon meeting.

"It does trouble me that we don't have more people attending the town hall meetings," said Carleo.

Those who did attend found the meeting to be satisfying.

"They're doing a very extensive review of all this material … and it's about time," said retired biology professor Roy Havenhill.

The Tree Master Plan will be finalized by mid-June.

SAVOR THE SAVINGS

When money's tight, Angel Food Ministries can help anyone make ends meet.

CAROLINA LEON
STAFF WRITER

Every penny counts, especially during California's tough economic times in which college students face high unemployment rates, tuition fee increases and sky-rocketing gas prices.

Angel Food Ministries, a non-profit, non-denominational organization, offers a discounted grocery program available to anyone, without the need for lengthy applications, income restrictions or other need-based qualifications.

"In our surrounding neighborhood we have Sun Valley, Van Nuys, Arleta, and economically, many students need assistance," said Valley College Vice President of Student Services Florentino Manzano. "The demand for financial aid has increased. We went from receiving about 8,000 applications to almost 14,000 requests, [in the spring] which is a pretty large portion."

Within a 20-mile radius of Valley, students can find 12 host sites, one as close as Burbank, which distribute food relief monthly. Orders must be received in advance, by the Sunday before distribution, which generally takes place the last Saturday of each month.

"Our signature box is $35. The items you receive can be purchased at places like Ralphs, but you bypass added cost," said Jerry Trotta, the site director at Valley Baptist Church in Burbank. "It's going to cost at least $60 at a store for what you receive and it's all basic stuff people buy anyway. It's beneficial to a lot of people. Some need it for a short time and others continue using it."

The packages are sold in units that can fit into a medium box and will feed a family of four for about a week or a senior citizen for a month.

The May "Bread of Life" signature box contains New York strip steak, spilt chicken breasts, pasta, rice, eggs, diced tomatoes and many other items. Specials vary monthly and Angel Food Ministries' food packages never have damaged, outdated, second-hand or overripe products. Most packages are designed for families, but others are designed for children or people in need of gluten-free products.

Orders are accepted online at AngelFoodMinistries.com with a credit card or gift card. Orders can also be taken in person at host sites before the order deadline, but payment options vary.

"We're trying to get the word out as much as possible," said Peggy Barta, worker at Valley Baptist Church. "We are the only host site in this area. Other than Simi Valley, most of them are in the Los Angeles area."

People are often in need of assistance, but don't meet certain qualifications for different programs. Angel Food Ministries offers open arms across 45 states to anyone while they continue to expand.

FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT

Students need to start becoming involved in the bigger issues around them by standing up for their education through protest.

NICOLE HUTCHINSON
STAFF WRITER

Over the last three years the community college system has been cut by about $1 billion including Gov. Jerry Brown's May revised budget, which will maintain the $400 million cut proposed in January. These cuts will continue and will not be lessened unless students stand up for their education in protest.

During this past semester, Valley has put together a number of protests and rallies, and while the efforts were admirable, the end results were pathetic, especially in attendance. In order for these protests to be more successful students need to begin thinking more globally rather than individually because if a great enough number of students can pull together and rally to deliver a message to the public about their struggle there will be a change.

Those at Valley are taking a hard hit now with summer session out of the equation now and about a hundred classes being canceled each semester, and in response many students have developed a strategy of solely focusing on themselves and their issues; however, this is counter-productive. There isn't anything wrong with wanting to be responsible for your own success, but contributing to a solution and being involved with efforts to defend higher education will not only help the individual's cause, but also support the fight for all community college students.

Why students aren't involved can be attributed to a number of reasons -- perhaps they're busy with work or other responsibilities; however, there are those who are resigned to this idea that there is no positive solution and that their actions cannot achieve anything. This is a lazy mentality and a total misconception. It's imperative now more than ever that students become active in issues like cuts and broaden their currently narrow scope of the world if these cuts are ever to lessen.

Protests rarely directly change policies; however, they successfully bring issues to light and once communities are better-informed, changes can begin to be made. A specific example of how students at Valley can put together a successful rally is informing the public that if the tax extensions are not approved by the Legislature and voters, fees could be raised even more.

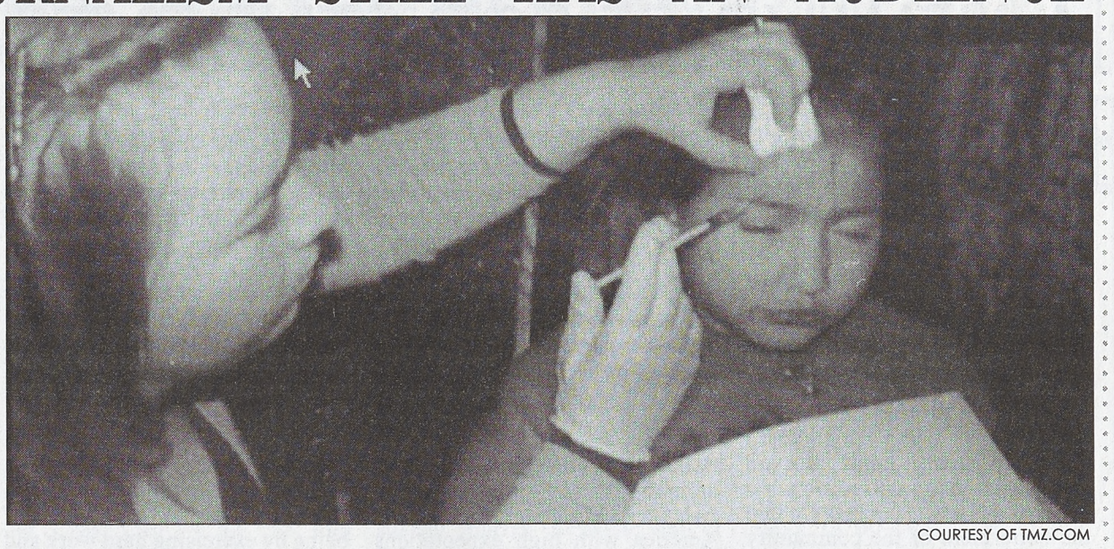
If budget cuts are ever to be lessened the students need to come together and take responsibility to inform the general public and take it upon themselves as a unit to make a change.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administrators, faculty, staff, or students.

YELLOW JOURNALISM STILL HAS AN AUDIENCE

The alleged "Botox mom," Kerry Campbell has gotten herself into a mess, but she isn't the only one.

COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER


COURTESY OF TMZ.COM

ABC's "Good Morning America" sent the world atwitter after reporting that a California mother, "Kerry Campbell" was injecting her 8-year-old daughter with Botox just to have an advantage in the beauty pageant scene. Little did ABC know that they would be paying for this story in more ways than one.

One would have thought that the days of yellow journalism were over, with the idea to get people interested without doing the legwork of researching and checking sources. By now, the advancement of technology would help the media report well researched news. This example is clearly the case that perhaps yellow journalism is still alive.

The Associated Press reported on Friday, May 20 that Sheena Upton, better known as Kerry Campbell told TMZ.com that she told the fabricated story to receive compensation. ABC's "Good Morning America" and "Inside Edition" said on Thursday that they were launching an investigation of the reports.

"Honestly, I don't even know what Botox is," Upton explained in the video. "I was scripted to do everything."

The Sun paid her $200 according to Upton. Two hundred dollars for a story. It seems here that the London tabloid writers didn't send in their budgets for their next issue. So sure, why not pay someone so people will read their tabloid. But the $200 is just the beginning.

According to ABC News spokesman, Jeffery Schneider, the network did not give Upton money for making an appearance on the morning show. However, $10,000 was given to a British broker, Claire Stephens Ltd., for the Botox photographs.

British reporter, Allie Epstein, according to the AP article said while she was working in Los Angeles, Upton's cousin told Epstein that Upton had bragged about injecting her daughter. Epstein explained in the AP article, that she was writing an article for Closer magazine in February in which she "adamantly" saw Upton give shots to her daughter.

Epstein and Stephens are partners. Epstein wired Upton $5,000.

According to Epstein, Upton sent her a text explaining that she wants an additional $10,000 to pay household bills and if she doesn't receive "the rest of the money that all hell will break loose."

This story has turned into something much bigger than a mom condoning a treatment that is the norm for "The Real Housewives" and objectifying her daughter who isn't even a decade old. This has just turned into a bad version of the classic game of telephone, only with Upton laughing while walking to the bank. She has passed go and collected $200.

IT'S HIGH TIME WE LEGALIZE POT

Taxation is key to having your pot and smoking it too.

RAFAEL ESCALANTE
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The near century-long ban against cannabis has failed in America. Whether you are conservative, liberal, or lie in the middle, there's no denying the harsh truth that the war against the sticky green plant has done more harm than good by wasting hundreds of millions of taxpayer's money, and politicians need to take immediate notice.

An estimated $181 billion are spent annually by the United States government in the continued failed effort of keeping marijuana illegal, according to retired Gen. Arthur T. Dean, chairman of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America. This large sum of money is only scratching the surface when one considers the additional $10.3 billion spent by state and local government trying and prosecuting non-violent criminals for possession of small amounts of marijuana. According to Hightimes.net, the profits of cannabis sales equal $14 billion annually and that's in California alone, but our debt-ridden government gets absolutely nothing from it. Taxpayers deserve to see some of this A recent study conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University found that 40 percent of teens could get marijuana within a day, and kids between the ages of 12 and 17 say it is easier to get than alcohol. "Regulating and taxing cannabis will not only put money in the government's pocket, but it will also take money out of criminal's pockets, bringing greater security to local communities.

According to Cato.org, the estimated drug profits for the drug cartels are $350 billion, meaning there is a whopping estimate of $210 billion income coming from marijuana according to the Congressional Research Service. The Unites States is now involved in what is called the "Third War" due to the increase in violence caused by the drug cartels. DailyCal.org cites that in 2008 alone, cartels murdered 6,290 civilians in Mexico, that's more than all U.S. troops killed in Iraq and Afghanistan combined. These dangerous drug cartels are continuously crossing over the border endangering public safety. By controlling marijuana, a huge chunk of funding will be cut from the cartels meaning less money invested in fighting this "Third War."

The choice is clear, let us have real control over marijuana or more of the same failing tactics. Like the prohibition of alcohol in the past, outlawing cannabis hasn't worked. It's created a criminal market run by violent drug cartels, wasted police resources and drained our state and local budgets. We can tax the drug and generate billions for vital services, or we can accept the statistics and turn our backs on this much-needed revenue.

DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE ON SMC TRANSFER

Valley College is not without its flaws, but those students who immediately dismiss it based solely on word of mouth deserve to spend the extra gas it takes to get to SMC.

RACHEL FERREIRA
STAFF WRITER

For every ill-informed student who says the superiority of the education at A, B, and C community college is worth the commute to not go to Valley College, there are X, Y, and Z reasons why it would be beneficial for them to do a little thing called research. Sorry, but location isn't a magic formula for success; education is what you put into it.

There is a common misconception that because Pierce has a larger set of course offerings or the Santa Monica College website has a blinking .gif that says "SMC Tops in UC Transfers," smaller community colleges like Valley cannot offer the necessary classes to transfer. These students who have probably heard this notion from other ignorant students will then pass on this information to other malleable minds, creating a trickle-down effect all the way to the high school level. While it is true that classes are an increasingly precious commodity, this is an issue across the board for California community colleges thanks to state funding cuts. The difference between these three campuses is the sheer number of students the schools can accommodate based off of available campus space, not necessarily better chances of transferring.

For those who bother to look at actual admit rates and not just read the numbers on the front page of a community college website, for the Fall 2011 applicants Pierce, SMC and Valley's admit rates to UCLA were all within one percentage point of each other. Pierce had a 36 percent admit rate, while Valley and SMC both had a 35 percent admit rate according to the University of California's "Admissions Statistics to Transfer from Community College" released on May 5, 2011. Last year's 2010 statistics didn't differ much either with SMC receiving a 35 percent admit rate to UCLA once again, Pierce receiving a 33 percent, and Valley at 32 percent. And in the Fall 2009 year—surprise, surprise—all three campuses stayed within a few percentage points of each other in the 40 percent admit range.

For certain specialized major pre-requisite classes, it is true that Valley does not offer as many options as the larger schools when it comes to taking them with different teachers. These students are justified in making the overcrowded 405 commute for the classes they need. However, there are still a large number of basic IGETC courses needed to transfer the large majority of community college students have yet to take and can take at Valley. Exercise common sense, there is nothing wrong with going to one community college one day and another one the next. Loyalty to one school because of the "quality" of perceived education is silly when at the end of the day, employers will be looking at the name of the campus you ended up transferring to.

It is a troubling statistic that just last week, the Cal State Sacramento Campaign for College Opportunity and the Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy released a report that said more than 70 percent of students in Los Angeles County failed to attain a degree or transfer to a four-year university within six years. This raises the question of whether the issue for future generations is student investment, not campus superiority.

TWO CENTS FROM SPENCE

THE SKY IS FALLING, OH WAIT, NEVERMIND

It's hard to tell if Harold Camping is Chicken Little or the boy who cried wolf.

J.P. SPENCE

There's a joke that goes, "A doctor gave some guy six months to live. The guy came back to said doctor because he couldn't pay his bill so the doctor gave him another six months."

Someone should tell heretic Harold Camping that life doesn't work that way. Camping, if you remember, predicted that the world would end Saturday in a worldwide cataclysmic event resulting in the biblical rapture.

Apparently Camping had his math wrong. According to an Associated Press story Camping had stated that he was off by five months and that the world would really end Oct. 21. Maybe he should double check his math, considering the world cannot end at the same time everywhere because Earth has this thing called time zones. Let's not forget the world was also supposed to end in 1994, you know, 17 years ago.

Camping later apologized for not having the dates as "worked out as accurately as I could have." That's okay, everyone makes mistakes; just like his legion of followers who sold all their possessions and cleared out their savings accounts expecting the world to end on May 21. The rapture may not have come and gone, but those people are certainly living in one form of hell or another. The Bible makes mention of being wary of false prophets; Camping should be less concerned about making predictions and more about his own salvation.

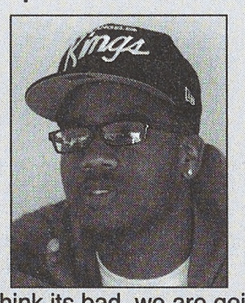
The sad thing is that most people (aside from his legion of vapid followers) just write this man off as a crazy old man stirring up controversy regardless if he really believes his own convictions. True as that may be, there is a larger issue at hand. His prediction was flat out reckless endangerment. Sure, he didn't yell fire in a crowded building, but he effectively ruined the lives of all his followers. Free speech is one thing, but there has to be accountability. Christian radio or not, this man should not have a FCC license or be allowed to have any format to spout any sort of toxicity. He's the 89-year-old boy who cried wolf.

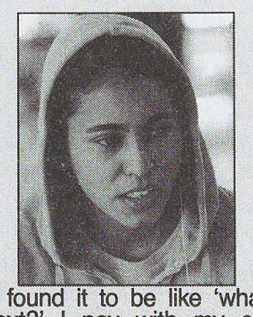
One has to think though, what if the rapture really did happen? There'd still be some six billion global residents. People would still be killing each other for dubious reasons, homelessness would still abound, homophobia would still be rampant, elitism and other ignorant "isms" would needlessly still apply, not to mention there would still be an NFL lockout. Who's to say we're not living in hell already?

E-mail J.P. Spence at
managing@lavalleystar.com
Send general comments to
valleystar@lavalleystar.com

VALLEY VIEW | IS A $10 INCREASE PER UNIT THAT BIG OF A DEAL?

"I already feel that we are very lucky to have such cheap classes for a community college and in the case on $10 I don't think is much."
-BROOKE SHARE, COMMUNICATIONS


"I think its bad, we are going through tough times and it's going to affect and education shouldn't be so expensive in the community college district."
-BRYSON WINTER, COMMUNICATIONS


"I found it to be like 'what's next?' I pay with my own money and it's a pretty high price and it will prevent people from coming here."
-NALLELY FELIX, UNDECIDED

"It's a pretty big increase especially when times are hard and people just don't have that extra money lying around."
-OLIVIA BELLA, UNDECIDED

"I think it's a shame and it's going along with a lot of trends of cutting classes and other fees."
-LIANA LAKE, COMMUNICATIONS

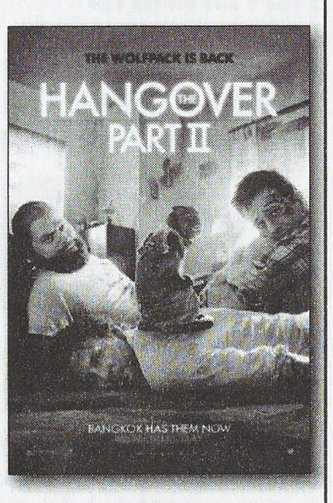
COMPILED BY RUBI MARTINEZ AND VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR

GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be sent to: **editor@lavalleystar.com** or submitted online at **www.lavalleystar.com.** Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

@THE MOVIES

OPENING THIS WEEKEND



THE HANGOVER PART II

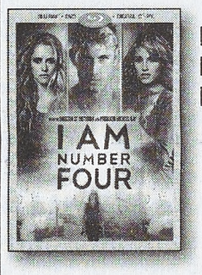
BRADLEY COOPER
ZACH GALIFIANAKIS
ED HELMS

TOP 5 BOX OFFICE:

- PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: $90.1M+
- BRIDESMAIDS: $21.1M+
- THOR: $15.5M+
- FAST FIVE: $10.6M+
- RIO: $4.65M+

MEDIA RELEASES

DVD

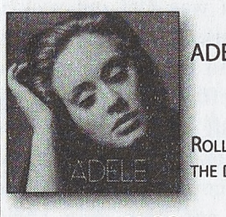


I AM NUMBER FOUR

ALSO AVAILABLE:

- GNOMEO & JULIET
- THE GREAT DICTATOR
- THE BIG BANG
- PLATOON (BLU RAY)

SONGS TOP DOWNLOADS



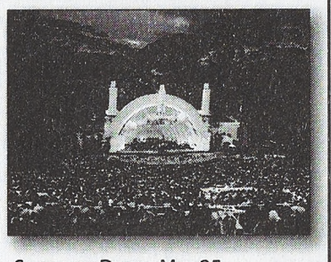
ADELE

ROLLING IN THE DEEP

ALSO:

- PITBULL - GIVE ME EVERYTHING
- LMFAO - PARTY ROCK ANTHEM
- BRUNO - THE LAZY SONG
- LADY GAGA - THE EDGE OF GLORY

CONCERTS & THEATRE



- SYSTEM OF DOWN: MAY 25
  VERIZON WIRELESS AMPHITHEATER
- STEVIE NICKS: MAY 26
  THE WILTERN
- JIM MESSINA: MAY 26
  COACH HOUSE CAPISTRANO
- MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE: MAY 28
  HOLLYWOOD PALLADIUM
- GLEE LIVE: MAY 28
  HONDA CENTER
- PRINCE: MAY 27 - 29
  THE FORUM
- THE DAN BAND: MAY 28
  CLUB NOKIA
- TRIBAL SEEDS: MAY 29
  SLO BREWING COMPANY

MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT: A NEW VOICE FOR STUDENTS

New ASU president plans to bridge communication gap between association and students.

NICOLE HUTCHINSON
STAFF WRITER

With individualism and personal gain being the standard mentality many hold, Norvan Berkezyan has a traditionalist flavor to his moral compass in that the betterment of the community is a priority on his agenda.

At 19 years of age and in his second semester at Valley College, Berkezyan has recently been elected President of the Associated Student Union.

"What really inspired me (to take office) is this idea that students have the ability to make change when together," said Berkezyan. "We're a very unrepresented part of the public but students need to realize they're capable of making change."

While leading the ASU and bridging the communication gap between students and the association is his current goal, he views it as a stepping stone for his future in working with those who lack a position of power or ability to represent themselves.

Berkezyan's long-term objective is to become a public service lawyer using pro bono law as both a guideline and mindset in his practice. His father is also a key role model.

"Ten years ago my father worked to help immigrants obtain legal status," said Berkezyan. "When I finish law school, I plan to help minority groups as well as other unrepresented people in court."

Berkezyan is a rare breed of character because he has developed an outlook on life that encompasses the needs of his community instead of one strictly about himself.

"I don't think there was only a single moment where what I wanted to do became clear, but a stream of things I've seen throughout my life," explained Berkezyan. "I've seen a lot of people who don't have a say, or no power; attending public school and meeting different people I've learned the majority is made up of more than a few and they need a voice too."

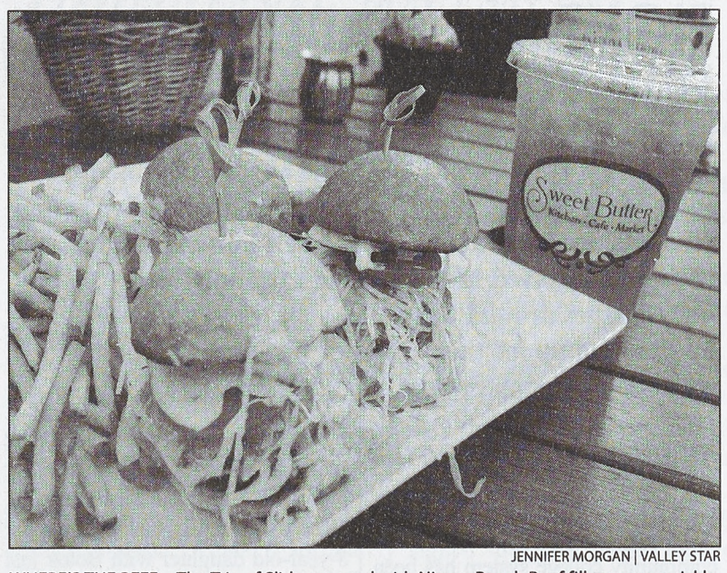
Born in the United States, Berkezyan comes from a family of immigrants. Originating from Armenia, his parents came to America with high expectations obtained through hard work. Their experiences have contributed to what inspires Berkezyan; however, the core of his drive is all his own.

"My parents support me, but most of my motivation and drive comes from me," said Berkezyan. "I've been there for myself. However, seeing them strive and struggle for the American dream and success has shown me designing the life that you want to live is possible through hard work."

Through compilation of his personal experiences as well as the example set by his parents, Berkezyan has set a standard of being by exercising hard work and pursuing a cause for the "good of the public."

SAMSON UBA | VALLEY STAR

YES HE CAN - ASU President-elect Norvan Berkezyan will take office during the fall semester with high hopes of improving communication with students.



JENNIFER MORGAN | VALLEY STAR

WHERE'S THE BEEF - The Trio of Sliders served with Niman Ranch Beef fills one up quickly.

SWEET BUTTER LIVES UP TO ITS NAME

Sweet Butter located in Sherman Oaks is the perfect place to eat on a warm California day.

COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER

In a cafe named Sweet Butter, one would think that they would be transported to Paula Deen's kitchen. However, this restaurant serves more than just sugary items.

Sweet Butter is located on Ventura Boulevard with only outside seating, which is perfect on those sunny Southern California days while people dine out.

For a newcomer, the figuring out where to order may cause a bit of confusion. Orders are made inside one part of the restaurant and a greeter then seats customers while they wait for the food to come. The seating is around the perimeter of the building with cushions on one side and chairs on the other.

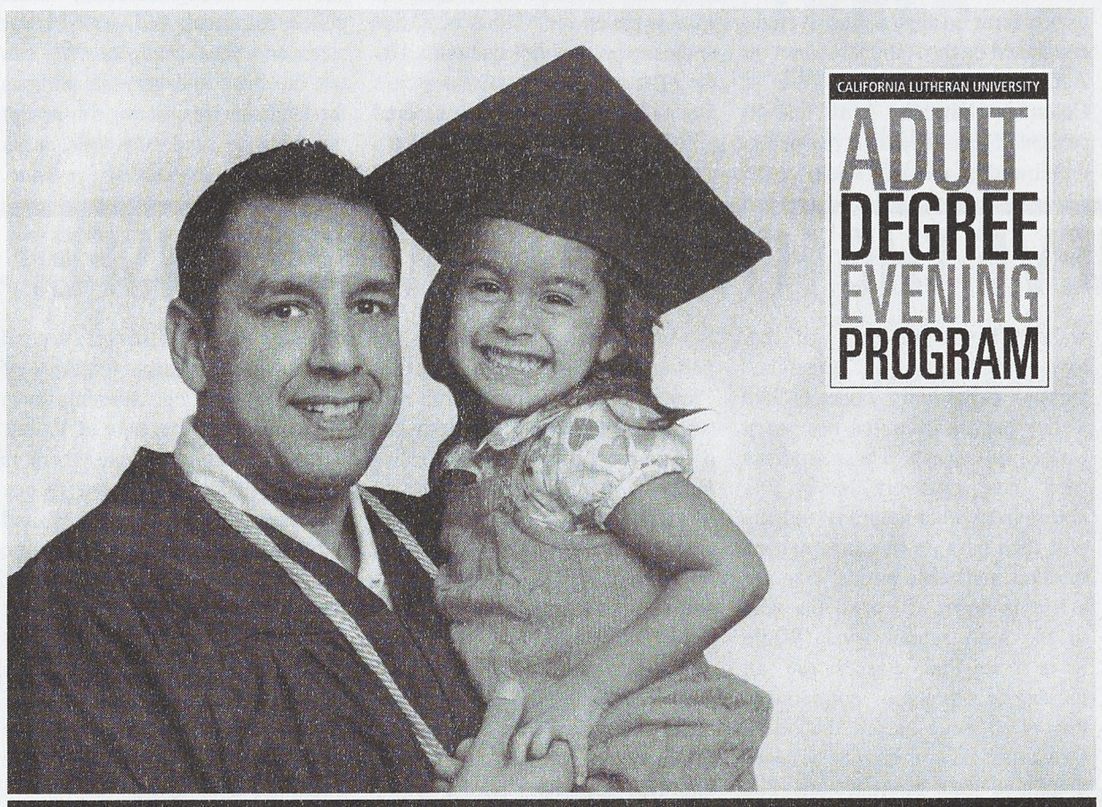
Sweet Butter is known for serving breakfast all day, but their coffee is what it's really all about. They serve Intelligentsia coffee, which has the perfect blend of strong and smooth all at the same time. All of the specialty coffee drinks ordered in also comes with a homemade design, showing one that they really do care about the presentation.

The Trio of Sliders may look like a quick bite to eat, but the Niman Ranch Beef could make any stomach full. The homemade Thousand Island dressing works out perfectly with the small Brioche buns. The only downside to the Trio is that if one lets the shoestring potato fries stay out for too long they don't become too appetizing.

The Arnold Palmer that Sweet Butter serves up is something that a golfer would be proud of. The balance of sweet and sour with the tea works together perfectly. They also serve it with just the right amount of ice that way one's hand isn't too cold while holding it.

The price of Sweet Butter products may be a bit pricey to some, ranging from $2.50 for an espresso to $13.95 for a Cobb Salad, but because they support local farmers and also use homemade recipes, it's worth the money.

Sweet Butter is in Sherman Oaks at 13824 Ventura Boulevard. They are open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week.


CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY
ADULT DEGREE EVENING PROGRAM
LEARN LOCAL. THINK GLOBAL.
THE CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY ADULT DEGREE EVENING PROGRAM
Our Bachelor's Adult Degree Evening Program has expanded to our Woodland Hills Center.
TRANSFER TO CLU:
• Convenient, evening format to fit your busy lifestyle
• Accelerated 11-week terms
• Transfer up to 70 community college credits
• Recognition of the general education transfer curriculum (IGETC) to satisfy lower division requirements
BACHELOR'S DEGREES OFFERED:
• Accounting
• Business Management
• Organizational Leadership (Now Online!)
Make an appointment with Vanessa Chacon, Assistant Director of ADEP Woodland Hills, at 805.493.3324 or vchacon@callutheran.edu.
FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE
California Lutheran UNIVERSITY
1.888.CLU-GRAD | www.callutheran.edu/la
THREE CONVENIENT LOCATIONS: THOUSAND OAKS, OXNARD AND WOODLAND HILLS

COURTESY OF DIGITALTRENDS.COM

THAR, IT BLOWS

"On Stranger Tides" finds itself somewhere between a rock and a hard place.

J.P. SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

Forget about pirate zombies, the fountain of youth, and the lost treasure of Ponce de Leon, "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides" is pure fool's gold.

On paper, the film is can't miss. Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) and Hector Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush) return, this time chasing the legendary Blackbeard (Ian McShane) in pursuit of the fountain of youth. Substitute one hottie (Keira Knightley) for another (Penelope Cruz), mix some crappy Hans Zimmer score and the myriad platitudes concerning a pirate's life and let the millions roll in.

That's just the problem; there is virtually no joy in the film or the filmmaking. It's as if Disney sent Mickey Mouse on location to set everyone straight that this cash cow must succeed. Director Rob Marshall subs in for Gore Verbinski, who directed the first three films, but unfortunately fails to leave a trademark of his own on the franchise. Not only is the film excessively long at two and a half hours (the same length as Gore's "At World's End"), but so much of the cinematography is "Pirates" by numbers that the audience is left wondering if footage is stock or original. Marshall's trademark is able to capture romantic tension seen in films like "Chicago" or "Memoirs of a Geisha." What should've been smoldering tension between Cruz and Depp is kitschy one liners about thrusting swords.

Depp wears Capt. Jack Sparrow like a second skin and is more than comfortable playing court jester to events unfolding than leading man. While the character is out-of-his-mind enough to keep some viewers invested, many fans of the franchise and Depp know that this actor is way too good and for him to mail in this performance is disappointing. The same applies for Cruz who appears to be more than happy to be in a blockbuster film and has no qualms being just a love interest. Ian McShane's portrayal of the legendary Blackbeard is milquetoast at best. The only actor who does the film and his role any justice is Rush reprising the role of Hector Barbossa. He nearly steals every scene he's in and relishes his role with nuances that make this mad marauder lovably incorrigible.

The most noteworthy thing about "On Stranger Tides" is that the zombies and mermaids are funny. Really funny and for completely the wrong reasons. The film's ultimate undoing is that it takes itself too seriously and forgets the joy of swashbuckling and plundering. While Disney is busy casting and scouting locations for the fifth "Pirates" film, maybe they should take some time to consider a story worth telling.

HALL OF FAME HONORS PAST ATHLETES

The eight inductees of Valley College's Hall of Fame will be honored Saturday, June 25.

COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, June 25 former players, teams and coaches will be inducted into Valley College's Hall of Fame, joining other notable members of the athletic community in its fifth year.

This year's eight inductees include the 1968-1970 cross country team, Doug Baker, Ted Calderone, George Goff, Charles Lee, Gail Malone, Don McKenzie, and Wayne Quigley.

The Hall of Fame started in 2006, honoring exceptional athletes who attended Valley. With the vision of former football coach and athletic director Chuck Ferrero and help of Director of the Foundation Raul Castillo, the Hall of Fame Committee prides itself on honoring greatness.

"The first one took about two years of planning," explained Ferrero. "I went to other community colleges and attended their hall of fames to see what we could bring to Valley. The night's a lot classier than some other hall of fames. We go above and beyond."

Ferrero accredits the success of the event to the committee that works year round on choosing the class for the Hall of Fame, while keeping the community updated with three newsletters per year.

Each year members of the Monarch athletic community can nominate someone who they feel is a good person to be a part of the Hall of Fame. After that, the committee of 10, who are comprised of current and past administrators and teachers do their research and choose the inductees for each class, which is inducted annually in June.

"They fill out an application to nominate the person who they suggest," said Diedra Stark, athletic director and member of the Hall of Fame committee. "Then we do our homework. We go looking to see if the person has really accomplished whatever the person is nominated for. And then we go back into records and old Valley Stars and we try to verify all of the information; if they went on from here or they were an Olympian or if they were a professional athlete."

The event is not only to uplift the athletes of the past, but also a chance for the members of the school community to come together after many years while raising money for Valley's student athletes.

"It's a wonderful way to bring people back to the campus," said Stark. "We are trying to raise money for our athletic endowment fund, so it gives people a way to reconnect with friends of the past, old coaches and teachers, with teammates, and it brings them back to the campus. And you get amazed when you hear their stories about how much the two years here meant to them and how passionate they are."

Stark would like to see current student athletes attend the Hall of Fame and finds that it would be valuable for them, especially for the endowment fund to help current student-athletes at Valley.

"It gives (them) something to think about," said Stark. "In ten years, three or five years, maybe that's something that could happen to (them); that (they) could be inducted. I think it's a good idea. (The Hall of Fame) is all about funding and figuring how we can fund a table for athletes. I think it would be amazing for an athlete from every team to come. I think if they attend they might think 'oh, that could be me someday.'"

Monarch wide receiver and kinesiology major Kevin Kreppel sees the importance and has considered attending the Hall of Fame.

"It shows the great accomplishments of athletes that have attended Valley," said Kreppel. "It makes you want to work hard to get [where they are at.]"

To RSVP for the Hall of Fame on Saturday, June 25 at 5 p.m. go to http://www.lavc.edu/Athletics/hall_of_fame_2011_invitation.pdf and return the form to the Valley Foundation office located in Administration 100.

SAMSON UBAJ | VALLEY STAR

A WALL OF SUCCESS - Located in Monarch Hall, the Valley College Hall of Fame honors past athletes and teams.

SPIRIT AND DANCE TEAM LOOKS FOR NEW PROSPECTS

A three-day try-out session took place to determine the ranks of the Monarch Spirit Dance Team.

NICOLE HUTCHINSON
STAFF WRITER

Rihanna's S&M blared in the confines of the dimly lit gym last Wednesday evening as Panorama High School senior Marlene Vivar added energy and elegance to the intricate dance routine during Valley College's annual Spirit Dance Team try-outs.

Vivar was one of many promising candidates during Valley College's Monarch Spirit Dance Team try-outs, which took place in the North Gym Tuesday and Wednesday evening. The 20 or so auditioners ranged from high school graduates like Vivar to three-year team veterans.

"Feel it, just feel it," encouraged cheer Coach Rachel Paul during the routine. "Get into it," she exclaimed.

The girls were given a short introduction into the amount of commitment required to be a part of the squad, followed by a 10-minute stretching period before being presented with the routine that determined their acceptance or rejection.

"I'm not nervous," said Valley student Michelle Duran. "I've been on dance teams before."

Many girls walked in with that same level of confidence, but it didn't last long. These try-outs weren't just girls wavng their pom poms. The counts got faster and the moves picked up pace many girls flourished; however, some floundered with clear confusion on their faces.

"It looks like a good group," said Paul during the first water break. "It's hard building a team because this is a transitional place and they turn over so frequently."

At a commuter college like Valley, school spirit is hard to come by and that is why the squad's job and duty is so important to the campus.

"Cheer changes the field and makes the teams we're rooting for feel [like someone is] there for [them]," said squad veteran Ari Gracey-Roth. "We're an important part of what drives the teams."

On Sunday May 22, the girls performed the routine they learned in groups of three for the final stage of the try-out where only four girls made the cut, including Marlene.

"I wasn't pleased with the turn-out this time around, but we are still looking for some experienced dancers for the team," said Paul.

Paul believes there will be more partcipants for the next round of try-outs because graduation will be over, allowing freshmen to attend.

The second set of try-outs will also be held in the North Gym during the week of June 27.

Get Your Associates Degree and go to Law School.

☐ Good Idea.

☐ Great Idea.

☐ All of the above.

Enroll in Trinity Law School in the Fall.

You can attend law school upon completion of your Associates Degree. Go straight to law school. Save time, save money, and get a great education with unlimited opportunities.

TRINITY LAW SCHOOL
2200 North Grand Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705
800.922.4748 | www.TLS.edu

DESPITE BUDGET CUTS, SPORTS CONTINUE THROUGH SUMMER

Pre-conditioning courses for fall sports will continue to take place during the summer.

NICOLE HUTCHINSON
STAFF WRITER

While traditional courses will not be taking place for the upcoming summer session, Valley College's athletics will continue to run its year-long training program in order to keep those enrolled in sports at their fittest, to help avoid injuries and meet requirements to fulfill the district's insurance policy for athletes.

"It's all preseason training; in order for our athletes to be covered by our insurance they need to be enrolled in the class, both pre-season and during season," explained Valley Athletic Director Deidra Stark. "It's really about keeping our student athletes insured and in shape to avoid injuries during season."

Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed budget to cut funding for community colleges by $400 billion has resulted in traditional summer session courses being eliminated; however, special and year-long programs including the athletics program have been excluded.

"The priority comes from program viability," said Valley President Sue Carleo. "In a nutshell, the process looks at the overall goals, outcomes and costs of each program and determines areas of improvement. As a general practice, the program under review is given goals for the next review period."

The full program review of Valley's sports will be made next year; however, Carleo believes sports should be a priority now because they keep students enrolled full-time and encourages passing grades. Unlike academics, cutting sports during pre-season would extremely hinder athletes during the fall sports season.

"It's different than saying 'instead of 50 English classes there are going to be 45,'" Carleo said. "There are times when you can cut quantity without cutting quality, and other times when you remove one piece, the whole thing starts to crumble."

Under the program viability process, what each program contributes to the student body is a key factor to be evaluated and Carleo believes that sports are an essential and critical investment.

"Athletics provide students with a wider range of ways to evolve in their own learning of themselves physically [and] mentally," said Carleo.

Contrary to some students' concerns, the athletics budget has not been increased. The courses offered are strictly preconditioning for fall sports and are not instructional classes.

Coaches and faculty in the sports department are making sacrifices to keep the program running for summer by one being paid a maximum of 20 hours during the June 20-Aug19 time span.

"If they were told they'd get not a penny they'd still do it," Stark said. "It's not about being paid it's about preparing the students."

VALLEY STAR ADVERTISING

For information and rates
call: **818.359.9324**
or email: **advertising@lavalleystar.com**

SCOTT MITCHELL, SPECIAL TO THE STAR | VALLEY STAR

THE LONG JUMP - The Valley College men and women's track and field teams ended the season last Friday in Sacramento at the California State Championships held at American River College.

TRACK AND FIELD REPRESENTS VALLEY IN STATE MEET

The track and field teams ended its lengthy season at the California State Finals.

IVAN ZUNIGA
ONLINE MANAGER

The track and field teams headed to Sacramento last Friday for the California State Championships held at American River College. Both the men's and women's teams competed in several events and managed to place impressive times in each.

"It was an extraordinary day. This team came ready and focused to perform, and the results were outstanding," said women's coach Yannick Allain.

The men's team scored a total of 6.5 points in the two events they competed in, placing 35 out of 39 other colleges. The women's team managed to place sixth, scoring a total of 40 points.

Kyle Ballew and Jorge Mendez represented the men's team for Valley as they competed in the 10,000-meter run and pole vault. Kyle Ballew earned fourth place, scoring 5.5 points with a height of 16-2 1/2. In the 10,000, Mendez placed eighth with a final time of 32:46.11, scoring one point for Valley.

"It is very difficult to come back week after week and be the best in the state or in the USA," said men's Coach Francois Wolman. "Kyle Ballew won the Jr. USA championship last year and we are proud of his accomplishments at LAVC."

Out of the five events the women's team competed in, the team placed no lower than third place in each event. Jasmine Woods competed in the 100 dash (12.08) earning first place, and in the 200 dash Woods placed second with a final time of 24:57. In the 400 dash Alva Castillo received third place with a time of 55:18.

Jasmine Woods, Chiza Eze, Adriana Blanco and Alva Castillo won first place in the 4x100 relay (46.21). And in the 4x400 relay Chiza Eze, Adeshola Stewart, Alva Castillo and Alva Castillo placed third with a time of 3:47.91.

American River College earned first place in the finals with 86.5 points in the men's division at state, and El Camino in the women's with 81 points.

"We took six girls from the San Fernando Valley public schools to the Community College State Championships and came back with six Community College All-Americans," said Allain. "I can't tell you how rewarding that is to me as a coach. I am overjoyed and proud of what these groups of girls have accomplished in such a short time."

A MONARCH VOICE THAT HEARS NO STRUGGLE

Despite suffering from cystic fibrosis, Valley Student Gary Teague never loses sight of his goals.

LUCAS THOMPSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Anyone who sits down and talks with Valley College student and 2011 baseball public address announcer Gary Teague, will find it difficult not to crack a smile. Not because it is soon apparent that the life-threatening disease Teague suffers from has affected his entire life and all of his mannerisms, but because Teague's confidence overshadows his handicap, and he smiles every day … no matter what.

"It's kind of refreshing isn't it?" said Dale Beck, Valley sports information director and football and basketball public address announcer. "He's a real person who just enjoys life and enjoys other people. When you're talking to Gary, there's no hidden agenda."

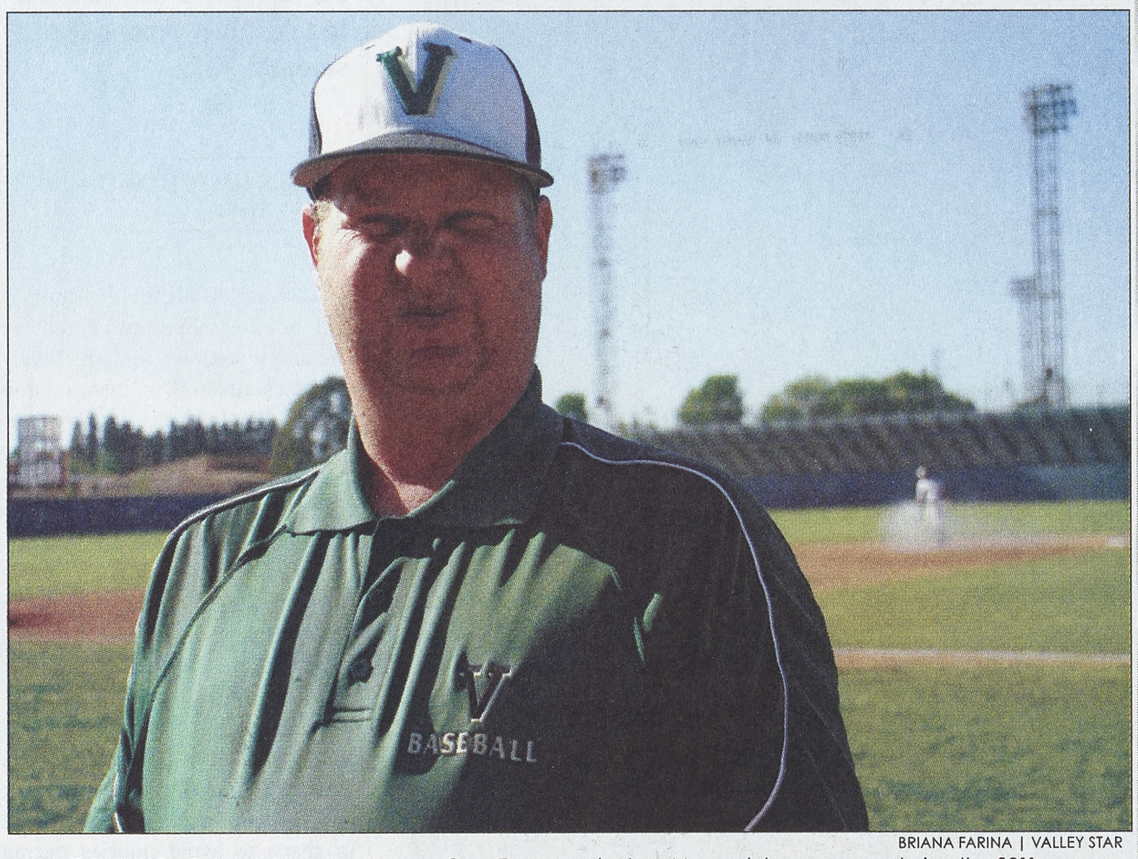
According to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the condition Teague suffers from, cystic fibrosis, is an inherited chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive systems of about 30,000 children and adults in the United States. Symptoms include wheezing and shortness of breath, poor growth/weight gain, obstruction of the pancreas, lung infection and more. Despite the long list of symptoms and obvious strain this puts on patients, when asked how much of a struggle the disease is day to day, Teague responded, "I don't think it is a struggle."

It's this confidence that has kept Teague striving to reach his goals and earn his degree in broadcasting. Teague originally came to Valley in 2001 after he graduated from Grant High School. He recently decided to finish what he started by earning his associates' degree.

"Fortunately for me I had seen Gary prior to this year announce at a local high school game, and I had known what his capabilities were," head baseball Coach Dave Mallas said. "Just speaking with him day to day, that passion that he has for the game of baseball and the way he is able to articulate … it was very easy for us to make that decision. I think the program really benefited from him."

When Teague returned to Valley in the fall semester he decided to approach Mallas to ask him if the team was in need of an announcer. Despite his condition and knowing Teague had done public address work at high schools such as Notre Dame, Burroughs and Campbell Hall, Mallas simply replied, "how much do you charge?"

Even through adversity, Teague has never been one to lack confidence. When he decided to run for president of his ninth grade class, few gave him a chance. "People were like, 'you can't do that.' … I won in a landslide," Teague said. "Someone said after; 'The only reason you won is because we felt bad for you.' A lot of the times in junior high and high school, I wanted to give up … it's not fun being teased."



BRIANA FARINA | VALLEY STAR

ALWAYS SMILING - Pubic Address Announcer Gary Teague prior to a Monarch home game during the 2011 season.

It's these types of memories Teague quickly brushes aside. He wants to talk baseball … and when he does, the glowing grin that crosses his face nearly hinders him from getting the words out. The brilliance in his expression and passion that runs through his entire body shows as he reflects back on moments like Kirk Gibson's "miracle" walk-off home run in game one of the 1988 world series. It's this passion and determination that encompasses the 36-year old student, making it evident that anything less of accomplishing his goals is unacceptable.

"I think it's crucial to those who doubted me, to show them I can do it," he said. "If you have a dream, don't give up on it, go for it. You can do anything when you put your mind to it."

Teague ultimately plans on pursuing a career in broadcasting or public address announcing. He looks forward to another season of announcing for the Monarch baseball team in 2012 as he continues his education at Valley. Undoubtedly, his positive attitude, persistence and love of life will continue to be an inspiration to those he encounters, and he will make them crack a smile … he will teach them something.

"It's been good for some of the players who haven't been exposed to people with disabilities in their lives," Mallas said. "It's been good for our players because they get exposed to it, he has goals like they do. Gary teaches our players valuable lessons … be the best you can be and don't let anything stand in the way of it."

ANALYZE THIS

"THE KING" STILL HAS A LOT TO LEARN

Despite the success LeBron James and the Miami Heat have displayed during this season's NBA playoffs, James' true colors will still show when it really counts.

LUCAS THOMPSON

Since LeBron James entered the NBA in 2003, he's been crowned "King James," and referred to as "LBJ," or the "chosen one." Though cute, nicknames do not equal success and what James has not been crowned with is an NBA title. He has not answered the question of when James will get his ring and this year won't be any different.

If LeBron and the "big three," (again with the nicknames,) manage to get past the young and hungry Chicago Bulls to advance to the 2011 NBA Finals, it would be only the second time in James' career that he will have made a finals appearance; his first was in 2007 when he and the Cleveland Cavaliers were swept by the San Antonio Spurs. A poised and veteran Spurs team exposed James as a one-man gang, a team that revealed James' inability to finish in clutch situations; a trait that has defined the NBA star throughout his career. During the 2007 finals, James averaged 22 points, seven rebounds and 6.8 assists. He was the number one draft pick and named Rookie of the Year in 2003, has been named an NBA All-Star and All-NBA player every year since 2005 and has earned two NBA MVP awards throughout his career. These stats are impressive, but don't reveal the real issue with James. All of these awards are the definition of what James is in the NBA … a player on a team, not a team player.

He summed this up last season when he held an hour-long special on ESPN called "The Decision." After making Cleveland fans, the coaching staff and organization wait months for James to make his dramatic "decision" to stay with the Cavaliers or play for another team, he did what was expected, and signed with Miami. The decision itself cannot be criticized or frowned upon, but how he went about it can. In waiting, he forced the Cavaliers to hold money aside just in case his "royalty" decided to stay with the team that drafted him. As if the Cavaliers weren't already in shambles, James reality television extravaganza costs the organization countless prospects and time for the "one man team" to rebuild with some chance of success.

One-man teams or even a "big three" are not enough to win championships. It takes a full effort from the five starters, coaching staff and bench. When the pressure is on, James will resort back to one-on-one basketball. He will get frustrated when a solid zone defense closes any chance of penetration and he will miss clutch shots. A team built on egos is destined for failure, especially when the biggest ego on the court, the one your team relies on, calls himself "The King."

E-mail Lucas Thompson at editor@lavalleystar.com